

REMARKS

In the Office Action of March 30, 2006, claims 18-20, 23-26, 30, 34, 37-40, 44, 45, 49, 53 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Koenck et al. (2004/0182936). Claims 21, 22, 27-29, 35, 36, 41-43, 46-48, 54 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koenck. Applicant points out that the present application and the cited Koenck reference both claim priority to a common ancestor (U.S. Patent 6,006,100) and that, therefore, the Koenck 2004/0182936 reference is not prior art to the present application. Specifically, the present application is a continuation of US Application 08/499,328 (US Patent (6,654,378), which is a continuation-in-part of US Application 08/239,267 (US Patent 6,006,100). Similarly, the Koenck reference 2004/0182936 is a continuation of US Application 09/467,255 (US Patent 6,749,122), which is a divisional of US Application 08/239,267 (US Patent 6,006,100). Therefore, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection based on the Koenck reference.

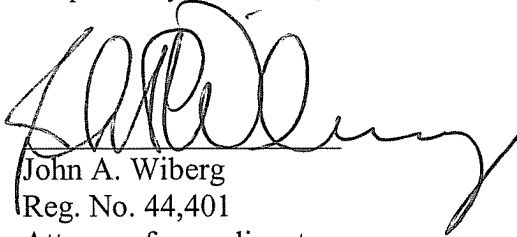
Applicant notes that the priority claim of the present application is amended slightly herewith to accurately set forth the priority chain. This change does not affect the priority vis-à-vis the rejection based on the Koenck reference 2004/0182936 and was not made to establish priority over the Koenck reference.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 18-56.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: August 29, 2006

Respectfully submitted,


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